

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00190 060826Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /129 W  
-----082079 061154Z /45

R 060805Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: FIRE AT ARUN GAS FIELD: MEDIA REACTION

REF: MEDAN 0181

1. LOW-CIRCULATION MERCU SUAR WAS ONLY MEDAN DAILY TO CARRY REPORT ON FIRE AT ARUN. ACCOUNT, APPARENTLY NOT REPEAT NOT BASED ON OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE, STATED THAT RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM AREA WITHIN TWO-KILOMETER RADIUS OF BLAZE AND THAT MORE SOPHISTICATED FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IS ENROUTE FROM U.S. MERCU SUAR GOES ON TO QUOTE "FOREIGN EXPERT" (OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED) AS SAYING FIRE IS "QUITE SEVERE" AND "BIGGEST

EVER IN THE HISTORY OF OIL EXPLORATION, AT LEAST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." "EXPERT" THEN STATES THAT, IF ONLY LOCAL FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT WERE USED, IT WOULD TAKE TWO YEARS TO EXTINGUISH FIRE. THE EFFECT OF SUCH A DELAY WOULD "BE FATAL" FOR THE ARUN PROJECT, HE CONSLUDED. MERCU SUAR CITES "SOME SOURCES" AS BLAMING THE BLAZE ON NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE DRILLING CREW.

2. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT OTHER MEDAN PAPERS WILL REPORT ON ARUN EVENTS SOON. TWO SOURCES FROM INDONESIAN BUSINESS  
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COMMUNITY HAVE ALREADY ASKED CONSULATE WHEN RED ADAIR IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE, EVIDENTLY HAVING HEARD OF MOBIL'S PLANS TO BRING IN ADAIR FROM MOBIL EMPLOYEES OR THE LATTERS' DEPENDENTS. THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE COMPANY'S DESIRE TO PREVENT RUMORS AND SPECULATION BY KEEPING REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENTS AT ARU IN OFFICIAL MOBIL/PERTAMINA CHANNELS IS BEING FRUSTRATED BY VERBAL INDISCRETIONS WITHIN THE PETROLEUM COMMUNITY

ITSELF.  
WALKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FIRES, GAS FIELDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MEDAN00190  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FIRE AT ARUN GAS FIELD: MEDIA REACTION  
**TAGS:** ENRG, ID  
**To:** JAKARTA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014